



State of Utah

Department of  
Natural Resources

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Division of  
Oil, Gas & Mining

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*Lieutenant Governor*

April 7, 2004

Mr. Jason Shumway  
1025 South 200 East 95-15  
Blanding, Utah 84511

Subject: Release Requests, Jason Shumway, Picture Rock and Snow Quarries,  
S/037/099 and S/037/115, San Juan County, Utah

Dear Mr. Shumway:

I inspected the referenced mine sites on March 19, 2004. Copies of the inspection reports are enclosed.

It appeared to me there had been little disturbance at the Snow Quarry since I last visited this site in 2001. Although there is some evidence of disturbance, the vegetation is almost entirely native. The Bureau of Land Management released the site in 2003, and by this letter, the Division hereby releases you from further reclamation liabilities at the Snow Quarry site.

To achieve the release criteria, the Division's regulations require reestablished vegetation on a mine site to have at least 70 percent of the cover of adjacent undisturbed areas. The Picture Rock Quarry has almost no vegetation, so it does not meet this standard and cannot be released at this time. The regulations also require a period of three growing seasons after the last seeding before release. You reclaimed this site in 2003, so three growing seasons have not yet elapsed since reclamation occurred.

I consider the grading to be adequate, but for vegetation to become established, the surface will need to be roughened. Because of the proximity of the site to the road, I suggest the surface be extremely rough to discourage people from using all terrain or four-wheel-drive vehicles on it. Roughening also helps to hold water on the site and tends to increase germination and establishment.

Various roughening techniques can be used, including ripping or gouging. If you rip the quarry, ripper shanks should be spaced no more than about three feet, and they should extend at least a foot deep. Another method would be to use a trackhoe and make gouges over the entire site.


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Seeding needs to be done in the fall and should take place as soon as possible after surface roughening to take advantage of the loose soil conditions. I suggest the site be broadcast seeded, but drill seeding might be possible depending on the amount of rock and how rough you leave the surface. The enclosed inspection report discusses species that might be used in the seed mix. Although these species are all adapted to the area, I suggest that you contact the Bureau of Land Management to ensure whatever species you decide upon are acceptable to them.

I would be happy to help you with any concerns you might have about revegetation procedures. Please call me at 801-538-5261 if you have any questions about these methods or about any other aspect of this letter. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



 Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist  
Minerals Regulatory Program

PBB:jb  
cc: Ted McDougall, BLM, Monticello FO  
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